THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The potential for power generation from urban wastes was estimated at 1925 MW for 2002. Based on growth in population and likely increase in generation of solid and liquid wastes in various cities and towns, the potential for power generation has been projected in increase to about 2900 MW in 2007 and 5650 MW in 2017.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing an Acclerated Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban Wastes. The Programme provides for financial assistance in the form of capital subsidy ranging from Rs. 1.50 crore to Rs. 3.00 crore per MW, with an upper limit of Rs. 8.00 crore per project. The amount of subsidy depends upon the type of waste and the technology deployed and is subject of eligibility and other terms and conditions. The Programme is open to all States and Union Territories. The Municipal Corporations/Urban Local Bodies and State Nodal Agencies have been requested to develop proposals for setting up projects for energy recovery from urban wastes. Workshops and seminars are also.being organized for creation of awareness and dissemination of information.

Slow down in development of solar energy

2496. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a deliberate slow down in the development of solar energy;

(b) the reasons for Government not giving adequate support for the development of solar energy;

(c) whether all concessions have been withdrawn for setting up solar energy plants;

(d) the reasons for not meeting the targets in the solar energy sector; and

(e) the steps to revive, expand, develop and nurture solar energy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry continues to provide fiscal incentives for promotion of solar energy devices and systems in the country. In addition, subsidy is also provided on some of the solar energy systems, convered under the schemes of the Ministry.

(d) Under the solar water heating programme, the targets set for the Tenth plan period have been exceeded. Further, under the solar photovoltaic programmes, the targets are allocated to the implementing agencies for installation of the systems. On the basis of proposals submitted by them, the past performance of the implementation of the projects and the availability of funds. Some times the implementing agencies are not able to complete the targets in time due to administrative reasons and delays in the procurement of solar energy systems. This results in some shortfall in achieving the targets.

(e) The following major initiatives have been taken by the Ministry to further expand the solar energy programmes.

(i) A scheme on Accelerated Development and Deployment of Solar Water Heating Systems in Domestic, Industrial and Commercial Sectors under which soft loan is available to the beneficiaries through selected banks and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) for installation of solar water heating systems.

(ii) Separate scheme on urban applications of solar photovoltaic systems,

(iii) A new scheme on distribution of solar lanterns in the un-electrified villages of the special category States; and

(iv) Expanded programme for establishment of Rajiv Gandhi Akshaya Urja Shops to facilitiate availability and after sales support for solar energy systems.

Utility of renewable energy technologies

2497. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there, is a lack of awareness amongst the public about the utilityof renewable energy technologies;